



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Radio Report #09. Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, June 25-26, 2003.

This is Ryan Sollee with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries announcement for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The next commercial fishing period in District Y-1 will be from 6:00 p.m. Thursday June 26 until 12:00 Midnight Thursday June 26. This will be a 6-hour commercial salmon fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. To repeat, a commercial salmon fishing period will be allowed in District Y-1 from 6:00 p.m. Thursday June 26 until 12:00 Midnight Thursday June 26. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger.

Subsistence fishing in District Y-1 will remain closed after the commercial fishing period. This closure is in response to the low passage of summer chum salmon to date. The summer chum salmon cumulative test fish catch rate of approximately 920 is about half of last years index through this date. The summer chum salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar of 325,000 is just over half of what it should be at this time. The summer chum salmon run projection is currently between 750,000 850,000 fish. This projection will decrease dramatically unless summer chum salmon passage increases in the next couple of days. Based on normal run timing, summer chum salmon usually peak about June 28 at Pilot Station. It is anticipated that District Y-1 will go back on the 2001 Board of Fisheries subsistence salmon fishing schedule of 2-36 hour fishing periods per week on Monday June 30. The department will continue to monitor the chinook salmon run to determine if additional commercial fishing is warranted.

District Y-2 subsistence fishers may begin subsistence fishing 12 Noon Thursday, June 26, 12 hours after the commercial fishing period has ended. Subsistence fishing in District Y-2 will then close on Friday, June 27 at 6:00 p.m. It is anticipated that District Y-2 will go back on the Board of Fisheries schedule of 2-36 hour subsistence salmon fishing periods per week on Sunday, June 29.

District Y-3 subsistence fishing is open until further notice. However, it is anticipated that District Y-3 will go back on the Board of Fisheries schedule of 2-36 hour subsistence salmon fishing periods per week on Tuesday, July 1.

Additional updates will be announced concerning subsistence fishing schedules for lower Yukon River Districts on Friday, June 27. Fishermen are reminded that they should consult State of Alaska commercial and subsistence fishing regulations before fishing in the Yukon Area.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak 949-1320. The Fish and Game office stands by on VHF channel 7a.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

___KICY 443-2213

___KNOM 443-5221

___KYUK 543-3131